

HOUSE No. 1067

By Mr. Hill of Ipswich, petition of Marie J. Parente and others relative to the prevention of bullying. Education.

The Commonwealth of Massachusetts

PETITION OF:

Marie J. Parente	Kathi-Anne Reinstein
Elizabeth A. Poirier	Benjamin Swan
James E. Vallee	Paul K. Frost
Barbara A. L'Italien	

In the Year Two Thousand and Five.

AN ACT RELATIVE TO THE PREVENTION OF BULLYING.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives in General Court assembled, and by the authority of the same, as follows:

1 Chapter 71 of the General Laws is hereby amended by adding
2 the following section:—
3 Section 90. For purposes of this section, “bullying” is any written
4 or verbal expression or physical act or gesture or a pattern of
5 behavior intended to cause emotional distress of a student in a
6 public school, on public school grounds, in public school vehicles,
7 at public school bus stops or at public school activities or sanc-
8 tioned events. In order to provide a learning environment that is
9 safe, conducive to the learning process and free from unnecessary
10 disruption, following consultation with parents, guardians, teachers,
11 administrators, students, student councils where applicable and,
12 where appropriate, the community at large, each public school
13 district shall promulgate and implement a safe school plan. The
14 plan shall state specific policies in effect designed to prevent bul-
15 lying from occurring. The plan shall also contain procedures for
16 disciplining students who bully. Each public school shall submit
17 annually, in a manner and by a date determined by the department

18 of education, a written report to the superintendent of its respec-
19 tive school district concerning the learning environment in the
20 school for the previous year. Each school district's superintendent
21 shall compile the reports from every school in the district and
22 shall annually submit the compiled report to the department of
23 education in a format and on a date specified by the department.
24 The reports shall include, but not be limited to, the safe school
25 plan in effect in the school district, the number of bullying inci-
26 dents reported at each school and the total number of incidents
27 reported in the district. The reports shall be made available to the
28 public annually.